

Social services officers at Southend Council have drawn up plans to drastically cut back the eligibility criteria for disabled facilities grants.

The grants are dished out to people who need to install helpful aids such as ramps, widen doorways or make other changes to allow them to stay in their own homes.

Grants can also be used to pay for ground-floor extensions to help people with limited mobility.

But, in the wake of Government cuts, council bosses say they can longer afford the projects.

Sandwich shop fine

THE owner of a Leigh sandwich shop, who has been fined for scrimping on hygiene standards, blamed the economic downturn which he says has left him with just £10 a week profit.

The case of Matilda Beans Bakery, in Leigh Road, highlights just how difficult it has become for competing businesses in the town and prompted a degree of sympathy from magistrates.

Southend Magistrates' Court heard Keith Anderson had failed to ensure there was hot water in the food preparation room.

Anderson, 63, of The Fairway, Leigh, was fined £500 and must pay £1,530 costs.

and hospital.

"Then, in 1995, we had a meeting in the village hall and I stood up and proposed we start a formal charity.

"Right there on the night we had more than 40 people volunteer to be drivers. It just took off straight away."

The charity, which is open to residents of Stock and surrounding areas, is there to help vulnerable people with transport difficulties, and many people have come to rely on the service.

Terry added: "It's a close-knit community in Stock and people really look out for each other.

"We don't get people abusing the service.

"Journeys are free, but we

Maureen, 70, to his investiture ceremony later in the year at Buckingham Palace, where the Queen will present him with his MBE.

Golf fan Terry added: "I'm bowled over, but very humbled by this.

"It will be a good excuse to buy a new pair of shoes and a new hat for my wife."

"We just look out for each other and the world would be a better place if everyone did that"



■ Humbled - veteran charity worker Terry Monaghan

Picture: MAXINE CLARKE BA53443_01

Power is put back on at Dale Farm traveller site

BASILDON Council contractors were back at the Dale Farm site to put the power back on.

Electricity supplies were removed before the eviction in October.

There are five properties left because the Dale Farm cottage has planning permission and the coun-

cil was unable to completely clear four illegal pitches due to technical errors before the operation.

The High Court ruled before the eviction it must reinstate their electricity supplies.

The activity yesterday led to concerns the council was issuing new enforcement orders for fami-

lies to leave the neighbouring legal site.

A council spokesman dismissed reports on Twitter that some families were given seven-day notices to leave, saying no papers were served yesterday.

A number of families are still living in caravans in Oak Lane,

next to the legal site, and there are concerns occupancy levels on the legal site are being breached.

The spokesman, however, would not confirm when notices would be served. He said: "We have not served any letters or notices. The activity is contractors levelling bunds to install electricity."

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